AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously presented) A method of promoting the survival of neuronal cells in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a BMP-11 polypeptide in an amount effective to promote the survival of neuronal cells, wherein the BMP-11 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by:

(i) nucleotides 778 to 1083 of SEQ ID NO:10;

(ii) a nucleotide sequence that encodes the same amino acid sequence as nucleotides 778 to 1083 of SEQ ID NO:10; or

(iii) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions with the complement of the nucleotide sequences of (i) or (ii) and encodes a protein that promotes the survival of neuronal cells in culture, wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridizing at 65°C and washing at 65°C in 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS,

thereby promoting the survival of neuronal cells in the mammal.

26. (Previously presented) A method of promoting the survival of neuronal cells in vitro comprising administering to the cells a BMP-11 polypeptide in an amount effective to promote the survival of neuronal cells, wherein the BMP-11 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by:

(i) nucleotides 778 to 1083 of SEQ ID NO:10;

(ii) a nucleotide sequence that encodes the same amino acid sequence as nucleotides 778 to 1083 of SEQ ID NO:10; or

(iii) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions with the complement of the nucleotide sequences of (i) or (ii) and encodes a protein that promotes the survival of neuronal cells in culture, wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridizing at 65°C and washing at 65°C in 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS,

thereby promoting the survival of the neuronal cells.

27-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 25-28~~ claim 25 or 26, wherein the BMP-11 polypeptide comprises amino acids 7 to 108 of SEQ ID NO:11.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 25-28~~ claim 25 or 26, wherein the BMP-11 polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 109 of SEQ ID NO:11.

37-40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously presented) A method of promoting the survival of neuronal cells in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a BMP-11 polypeptide in an amount effective to promote the survival of neuronal cells, wherein the BMP-11 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence chosen from:

(i) amino acids 7 to 108 of SEQ ID NO:11; and

(ii) amino acids 1 to 109 of SEQ ID NO:11;

thereby promoting the survival of neuronal cells in the mammal.

42. (Previously presented) A method of promoting the survival of neuronal cells in vitro comprising administering to the cells a BMP-11 polypeptide in an amount effective to promote the survival of neuronal cells, wherein the BMP-11 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence chosen from:

(i) amino acids 7 to 108 of SEQ ID NO:11; and

(ii) amino acids 1 to 109 of SEQ ID NO:11;

thereby promoting the survival of the neuronal cells.

43-44. (Canceled).

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the BMP-11 polypeptide consists of amino acids 7 to 108 of SEQ ID NO:11.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the BMP-11 polypeptide consists of amino acids 1 to 109 of SEQ ID NO:11.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the BMP-11 polypeptide consists of amino acids 7 to 108 of SEQ ID NO:11.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the BMP-11 polypeptide consists of amino acids 1 to 109 of SEQ ID NO:11.

49-52. (Canceled).

53. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the neuronal cell is a developing neuronal cell.

54. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the neuronal cell is capable of dividing.

55. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the neuronal cell is a developing neuronal cell.

56. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the neuronal cell is capable of dividing.

57. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the neuronal cell is a peripheral neuronal cell.

58. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the neuronal cell is a central neuronal cell.

59. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the neuronal cell is a peripheral neuronal cell.

60. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the neuronal cell is a central neuronal cell.